Dear Parish Vestry, (or comparable body)

You are being presented with an Aspirant from your parish who has been engaged in discernment for Holy Orders with their Sponsoring Priest.

The Sponsoring Priest may be a priest in your parish, the Dean of the Region, or someone the Dean has appointed. They will supply you with a copy of a variety of documents written by the Aspirant, the Sponsoring Priest, and when applicable the Parish Discernment Committee. Please review the documentation prior to you interviewing the Aspirant. These documents are advisory in nature and are to be kept confidential. Please destroy them when they are no longer needed.

It is important to note, the Commission on Ordination and Licensing (COOL) does NOT expect the Aspirant to be a finished product. By nominating the Aspirant for Holy Orders, you are confirming your belief that the person being nominated possesses the potential for spiritual growth and leadership, and that they obtain the level of maturity needed to continue the process of honest discernment.

The Vestry Letter of Support should be attached to the Nomination Form. This Letter of Support should include the congregation’s commitment to (1) and (2) of the Canon listed below. The Letter of Support should also reflect on and take into consideration the specific questions listed below for the Holy Order in which you are making a nomination.

To nominate the Aspirant for Holy Orders the Vestry (or comparable body) must comply with the 2012 Canons of The Episcopal Church: Title III, Canon 6 (Deacon) or Title III Canon 8 (Priest)

Title III Canon 6 Sec. 2 (a), states:
“A confirmed adult communicant in good standing may be nominated for ordination to the Diaconate by the person’s congregation or other community of faith.

(a) The Nomination shall be in writing and shall include a letter of support by the Nominee's congregation or other community of faith committing the community to:

(1) pledge to contribute financially to that preparation, and
(2) involve itself in the Nominee's preparation for ordination to the Diaconate.

If it be a congregation, the letter shall be signed by two-thirds of the Vestry or comparable body, and by the Member of the Clergy or leader exercising oversight.

Special Note: The wording is the same for nominating an Aspirant to the Priesthood listed under the 2012 Canons of The Episcopal Church: Title III Canon 8 Sec. 2 (a). Also, the Canons do not define the financial amount parishes are to contribute or how they are to be involved in the preparation process. The Commission on Ordination and Licensing suggests the Vestry should prayerfully consider what this means to them and their parish before making a nomination. The Vestry can contact the diocesan office to request an estimate as to the current cost of the education and formation process.
The Letter of Support should consider the following:

**For a Deacon**

Every Christian is called to follow Jesus Christ, serving God the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

What makes the vestry think the person being nominated is called to be a Deacon?

It is a special ministry of servanthood, to serve all people, but particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely. Deacons are called to: study the Holy Scriptures, to seek nourishment from them, and to model their life upon them. They are to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by your word and example, to those among whom they live, and work, and worship. They are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world. They are also to assist the bishop and priests in public worship and in the ministration of God’s Word and Sacraments.

At all times, their life and teaching are to show Christ’s people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself.

Does this sound like the person you are nominating? What makes the vestry think this person has been called to be a Deacon? What have you witnessed in their life that says they are called to be this type of leader in the church?

**For a Priest**

The Church is the family of God, the body of Christ, and the temple of the Holy Spirit. All baptized people are called to make Christ known as Savior and Lord, and to share in the renewing of his world.

Is the person you have nominated called to work as a pastor, priest, and teacher?

As a priest, they will be expected to proclaim by word and deed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to fashion their life in accordance with its precepts. They will be expected to love and serve the people, among whom they work, caring alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. They are to preach, to declare God’s forgiveness to penitent sinners, to pronounce God’s blessing, to share in the administration of Holy Baptism and in the celebration of the mysteries of Christ’s Body and Blood.

Does this sound like the person you are nominating? What is it that makes the vestry want to nominate them for this ministry and way of life? What have you witnessed in their life that says they are called to be this type of leader in the church?

**After Prayerful Consideration**

If 2/3 of the Vestry (or comparable body) supports the nomination, complete the *Nomination by Priest and Vestry for Postulancy* and the *Letter of Support* and return them to the Sponsoring Priest. These documents along with all other supporting documentation will be sent to the Administrative Officer of the Diocese.
Nomination by Priest and Vestry for Postulancy
And Letter of Support
Required Under Title III, Canon 6 and Canon 8

To the Bishop and Commission on Ordination & Licensing of the Diocese of Nevada

We, whose names are hereunder written, testify to our belief based on
(1) personal knowledge or (2) on evidence satisfactory to us (Circle the appropriate phrase)
that (N.N) ________________________
______________ is a confirmed adult communicant in
good standing of this congregation or community of faith. We do furthermore declare that,
in our opinion, he/she possess such qualification as fit him/her to be admitted a POSTULANT
FOR HOLY ORDERS, seeking the ministry of (1) diaconate or (2) priesthood (Circle the
appropriate order of ministry). We do set forth the grounds upon which we make our
judgment of the applicant’s qualifications in the appended letter of support.
We pledge our support to this aspirant both prayerfully and financially throughout the
discernment and formation process, and will involve ourselves in the formation process.

[SIGNED] ________________________________
Sponsoring Priest of the Parish or Diocese

[DATE] ________________________________

____________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________

(To be signed by a two-thirds majority of the Vestry or comparable body)

[PARISH or WORSHIPING COMMUNITY] ________________________________

[DATE] ________________________________

(Revised August 2015)